

Listing of the Claims

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A circular magnetic recording medium having a hole defined in the center thereof, suitable for use in a magnetic disk drive comprising:

a substrate;

a non-magnetic spacer material on the substrate;

a laminated soft magnetic underlayer on the non-magnetic spacer material comprising two or more layers of an iron-cobalt-boron alloy, each of said layers having an as-deposited thickness of approximately 80nm or less; and

a perpendicular recording layer on said soft magnetic underlayer;

wherein said soft magnetic underlayer has a magnetic easy axis which lies in the radial direction of said circular magnetic recording medium.

49. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 in which said soft magnetic underlayer comprises:

a first layer of an iron-cobalt-boron alloy deposited on said non-magnetic spacer material;

a second layer of an iron-cobalt-boron alloy deposited on said first layer; and

a third layer of an iron-cobalt-boron alloy deposited on said second layer.

50. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 further comprising one or more layers of tantalum disposed between said one or more layers of an iron-cobalt-boron alloy.

51. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 wherein said total thickness of said soft magnetic underlayer is between about 200 and 250 nm.

52. (New) The recording medium of Claim 51 wherein said soft magnetic underlayer is about 240 nm thick

53. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 wherein said iron-cobalt-boron alloy is approximately ninety percent iron-cobalt alloy and about 10 percent boron.

54. (New) The recording medium of Claim 53 wherein said alloy of iron, cobalt and boron comprises $(\text{Fe}_{65}\text{Co}_{35})_{90}\text{B}_{10}$.

55. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 wherein said soft magnetic underlayer acts as a single magnetic domain.

56. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 wherein said soft magnetic underlayer exhibits magnetic anisotropy in a plane parallel to the surface of said recording medium.

57. (New) The recording medium of Claim 56 wherein the hard magnetic axis of said soft magnetic underlayer is perpendicular to said radial direction of said circular magnetic recording medium.

58. (New) The recording medium of Claim 48 wherein the anisotropy field of said soft magnetic underlayer is greater than or equal to about 40Oe.